



Congregation Emanu-El  
ק"ק עמנו-אל

December 22, 2005

Mr. Mike Johanns  
Secretary of Agriculture  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW,  
Washington, DC 20250-3355

Re: 2007 Farm Bill

Dear Mr. Johanns,

I am writing to comment on the food stamp re-authorization section of the 2007 Farm Bill. I supervise our community service programs, many of which serve low-income populations of San Francisco. As you may know, the cost of housing is very high in this area, and often people have to choose between paying rent and buying food for their families. This includes the working poor.

The Food Stamp Program has come a long way in recent years. The EBT system, in particular, is a great step forward. Now it's time to rename the program to reflect this modernization. It would be a great help if the enrollment operations could be streamlined, as well. We trust you will continue to allow food stamp recipients to choose their food purchases and given the obesity epidemic, we know how important it is to support healthy choices through nutrition education.

Our other requests are to increase the minimum benefit and other allotment levels, to liberalize the resource rules and to increase the reimbursements to the states for their administrative operations.

We actively work to help those who are eligible enroll in the Food Stamp Program; and we ask that you continue to support food stamp outreach. The entitlement structure of the Food Stamp Program is essential, as is expanding the eligibility to more needy people who are currently left out of the program due to immigration status or time limits.

Mr. Johanns, a weighty responsibility rests on your shoulders, and we hope you will do everything you can to assure that no one goes hungry. Thank you.

Sincerely,

(Ms.) Terry Kraus, FTA

Director of Membership Services and Community Outreach



Congregation Emanu-El

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